

# What's New in the MPDC

DECEMBER 3, 2001

## CITY LEADERS DENOUNCE HATE CRIMES; ENCOURAGE VICTIMS TO COME FORWARD

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Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey were joined this week by US Attorney Roscoe Howard, DC Council Chair Linda Cropp, and other city and community leaders in denouncing hate crimes in DC and encouraging victims to come forward. Chief Ramsey said the District did experience a “spike” in hate crime reports targeting Arab and Muslim individuals and groups following the terrorist attacks of September 11. However, 45 of the 47 reports investigated by the MPDC involved hateful e-mails sent to local Arab-American institutions, mostly by people from outside the District. The Chief said that, unlike other jurisdictions in the region and nationwide, DC has experienced no acts of violence or property damage against Arab, Muslim, Sikh or other Middle Eastern targets since “9/11.” Part of the reason for the District’s success in preventing these more serious hate crimes, he said, was the government’s proactive efforts in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. For several weeks immediately following September 11<sup>th</sup>, the MPDC conspicuously stationed marked cruisers and uniformed personnel outside key Arab and Islamic institutions in the city, and officers were encouraged to be on high alert for instances of hate or bias. US Attorney Howard said that while the overall number of hate crime reports remains low, his office will vigorously prosecute – and seek enhanced penalties – for any cases that are brought. Read the news release on the city’s denunciation of hate crimes at:

[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)

*DC has some of the strongest human rights and hate crimes laws in the nation. To support these laws, the MPDC operates a hotline to encourage victims of hate crimes to come forward – anonymously, if they prefer. Please note that the hate crimes hotline has recently changed; it is now **202-727-0500**. For detailed information on hate crime laws in DC and how to report them to the police, click on:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/hatecrimes.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/hatecrimes.shtm)**

## HELP FIND MISSING PERSONS IN DC

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As the MPDC investigates another high-profile missing persons case, the Department reminds residents that the most effective tactic in finding missing persons is community interest and vigilance. Douglas Alexander Small, a 38-year-old executive of AOL-Time Warner who lives in the 2400 block of First Street, NW, was last seen the night of November 5<sup>th</sup> and apparently had a phone conversation the following morning. Mr. Small is one of more than a dozen missing children and adults currently featured on the MPDC Website. Each entry includes a photograph, a physical description, information about the circumstances of the incident and contact information. Additional missing person entries are added on a regular basis. View the latest group of missing persons in DC at:

*Dealing with a missing or runaway child is among the most traumatic incidents a parent or guardian may face. But up-front preparation and the first 48 hours after a person is discovered to be missing are critical to successful conclusion. Learn what you can to protect your loved ones by reviewing the MPDC’s Missing Persons Guide at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/missingperson.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/missingperson.shtm)**

[mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/missing\\_persons/missingpersons.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/missing_persons/missingpersons.shtm)

## NEW DMV CENTER TO OPEN IN GEORGETOWN

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Beginning Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the DC Department of Motor Vehicles opens a new Customer Service Center in The Shops at Georgetown Park, located at 3222 M Street, NW (lower level). The center will be open from 10 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 10 am

to 4 pm on Saturdays. Only the following services will be offered at the center: driver's license renewal, registration renewal, residential parking permit issuance, and driver

records. Complete services are offered at the main DMV facility at 301 C Street, NW. For additional information, call the DMV at 727-5000 or visit:

[www.dmv.dc.gov](http://www.dmv.dc.gov)

*As winter approaches, the MPDC continues to stress traffic safety. For a wide range of traffic safety tips and resources – from automated traffic enforcement to auto theft prevention and personal safety in your vehicle – visit our Traffic Safety page at:*

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm)

*Metro Transit Police reported this week that while DC's transit system remains one of the nation's safest, crime on bus and rail lines and in parking lots has increased this year. Learn how to protect yourself on buses and trains by following some basic safety tips:*

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/bustrain.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/bustrain.shtm)

## MPDC KICKS OFF "COATS FOR THE COMMUNITY" DRIVE

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Need a new coat this winter? Don't throw away your old one – donate it through the "Coats for the Community" program, a partnership of the MPDC, the DC Fire/EMS Department, ABC Radio, Magnolia Coach Limousine Service and DryClean Depot. The campaign encourages people to bring coats to their local DryClean Depot, which will clean them free of charge. The cleaned coats will be picked up by Magnolia Coach and delivered to Police and Fire/EMS officials, who will distribute the coats to needy families in DC. In the District, coats can be dropped off at the DryClean Depot located at 4418 Connecticut Avenue, NW, through December 8<sup>th</sup>. For the locations of additional DryClean Depot locations, visit the company's Website at:

[www.drycleandepot.com](http://www.drycleandepot.com)

*In the spirit of the holiday season, Mayor Williams will be joined by Washington Redskin Darrell Green and other dignitaries Monday evening to unveil a spectacular holiday lighting display on three buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The public is invited to gather at Freedom Plaza at 5:30 pm to witness the U.S. debut of a French illumination technology that "paints" buildings with colorful light. Read the news release at:*

[dc.gov/mayor/news/advisory.asp?id=209](http://dc.gov/mayor/news/advisory.asp?id=209)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Talk with Chief Ramsey and hear what others have to say, as the Chief holds his monthly "Ask the Chief" program on WTOP-1500 this Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am. You can submit questions in advance through the WTOP Website at: [www.wtopnews.com](http://www.wtopnews.com)

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**MPDC.DC.GOV**